

AGRICULTURAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT PLANS 2010

Agricultural Energy Management Plans are a new opportunity for Nevada agricultural producers to identify how they can be more energy efficient and reduce energy costs.

WHAT IS AN AGRICULTURAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT PLAN?

An Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) is an analysis of current farm infrastructure and management with recommendations about how to reduce energy consumption on the farm. This includes purchased fuels, electricity, and renewable energy sources used to perform farm activities. These plans can be done for each farm enterprise, such as a livestock production system, field crop system, or dairy, and specialized non-livestock operations, such as greenhouses and cold storage. This provides you with cost effective ways to reduce operating costs while saving energy.

WHAT WILL I GAIN?

The AgEMP is tailored to the individual farm. It determines and documents current energy usage over the past annual cycle, and provides cost-effective energy conservation alternatives and recommendations for each farm enterprise. The evaluation of energy conservation activities includes energy used in the cultivation, protection, harvesting, processing, and storing of agricultural crops; in the feeding, housing, and processing of farm animals and animal products; and wildlife enhancement activities.

WHO WILL DEVELOP MY PLAN?

Your Agricultural Energy Management Plan will be developed by a qualified professional. You may choose from an approved list of certified,

-over-



registered Technical Service Providers (TSPs) who help producers with technical assistance for specific conservation programs administered by USDA. Names are available from your local NRCS office or from the Technical Service Provider Registry (<http://techreg.usda.gov/>).

HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?

You will receive payment from NRCS when the plan is complete. The payment rate is estimated to be a portion of the total amount you will pay for the plan – 75% for general applicants, and 90% for historically underserved applicants. You will be responsible for paying the balance due the TSP. (For more information about historically underserved groups, consult your local NRCS office or http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB_Farmer/.)

PAYMENT RATE FOR NEVADA

Payment Rate	
\$1,687.50	\$2,025.00 (Historically Underserved)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The producer and land must be eligible under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program of the 2008 Farm Bill. The plan must be completed within twelve months of contract signing.

An agricultural operation that has not already received a USDA payment for an energy audit through any USDA conservation program may be eligible.

WHAT ARE THE EQIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

To participate in EQIP, you need to:

- be an individual, entity or joint operation.
- produce or sell an annual minimum of \$1,000 of agricultural products. People applying for EQIP forest land assistance are exempt from this requirement.
- have control of the land for the term of the proposed contract. Renting and leasing land is fine, as long as you can document that you have control of the land for the duration of your contract.
- be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.
- have an average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$1 million dollars or less.
- have an interest in the farming operation associated with the land being enrolled.

- be in good standing with the terms of all other active USDA contracts.

Land enrolled in EQIP needs to:

- be used in agricultural, livestock or forest production, or be capable of growing trees.
- be privately-owned or tribal land. Publicly-owned lands are eligible only if the land is leased or rented to an eligible agricultural producer.
- not receive other USDA program payments for the same conservation practice.

WHO IS NOT ELIGIBLE?

Anyone receiving a Headquarters Energy Audit through the EQIP Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG), USDA-Rural Development’s Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Energy Audit Program, or USDA Risk Management Agency’s funded Energy Audits are not eligible to receive funds for a Headquarters AgEMP on the same area.

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION DEADLINE?

An AgEMP is a Conservation Activity Plan, a specialized, in-depth plan that addresses specific resources and can be used to improve management. Applications for this component of EQIP are on a first-come, first-served basis (depending on funding availability) .The applications are received and certified as eligible, without regard to ranking.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Contact your local NRCS field office to determine if you are eligible and for an application .Nevada NRCS offices are located in Caliente, Elko, Ely, Fallon, Las Vegas, Lovelock, Minden, Winnemucca and Yerington .The State Office is located in Reno. For more information, visit our Web site at <http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov>.

**INFORMATION ON USDA ENERGY PROGRAMS
Rural Development**

Rural Development’s Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides grants for energy audits and renewable energy development. Please contact Mark Williams at (775) 887-1222 for more information.

Farm Service Agency

Farm Service Agency loans and/or financial assistance to pay for energy audits or other conservation practices may be available. Please contact FSA at (775) 784-5411 for more information.